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LAFAYETTE VISTAS

Planning Developments

Roughing It Equestrian Camp Approved

After more than 25 public meetings, the Roughing It Day Camp received final approval from the Lafayette City Council in March to move its equestrian day camp from Moraga to the old Rolling Ridge Ranch in Lafayette. The 116-acre Rolling Ridge Ranch is located across the street from Acalanes High School behind Springhill School. The approved application is subject to 19 conditions designed to minimize impacts to surrounding neighborhoods. The 24-year-old Roughing It Day Camp conducts two, four-week sessions each summer. Daily attendance at the camp totals around 250 children between the ages of 3-15. Camp programs include swimming, rowing, fishing, canoeing, horseback riding, general sports and environmental education. The equestrian camp should be relocated to its new facility in time for the summer 1997 sessions.

For additional summer recreation programs for kids, call the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department at 284-2232.

Town Center Back to Drawing Board

At its April 4 meeting, the Planning Commission requested more information on the proposed Town Center project, which will be reviewed again on June 6. The application to develop the "BART Block" has been on the public hearing circuit for more than a year. The latest concerns include the type of environmental analysis needed and whether or not the current plan conforms to Lafayette's specific plan for the BART Block. The project currently includes four retail buildings

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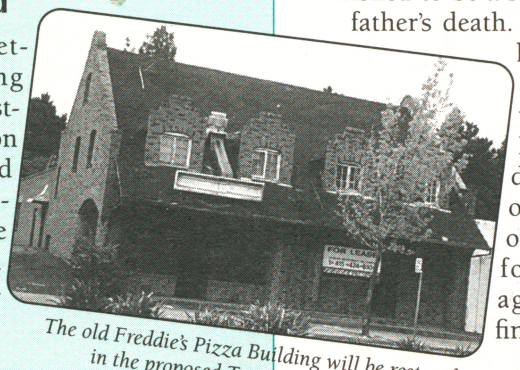


The old Freddie's Pizza Building will be restored in the proposed Town Center project.

Who Was Lafayette?

From Olivier Bernier's Lafayette

Who, exactly, was the man for whom our City is named? The eventual "hero of two worlds," Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette, was born of nobility in France in 1757.

Lafayette's father was killed by the British in the battle of Minden in 1759, and the young Lafayette inherited a castle, a fortune, and the title of Marquis. As he reached his adolescence, Lafayette was one of the richest men in France and its most eligible bachelor. In 1774, through an arrangement, Lafayette married Adrienne de Noailles, daughter of a most powerful and well-connected French family. She was twelve and he fourteen when the marriage was arranged.

More than anything else, Lafayette wished to be a soldier and avenge his father's death. Unfortunately, when he came of age, France wasn't at war with England. So, in 1777, Lafayette — disobeying the King's orders — bought his own boat and sailed for America to fight against England and finally fulfill his dream.

Upon his arrival, the twenty-year-old summarily informed George Washington that he was ready to command troops. Since, however, the young man had no combat or leadership experience, Washington rejected the plea. Washington, however, liked the earnest young man and agreed to take him under his wing. Also, it probably didn't hurt that Lafayette was enormously wealthy and influential in France — and could therefore be in a position to help the colonial cause.

In September, 1777, Lafayette's lucky star shone down on him. The British had disembarked a large body of troops in New Jersey with an intent to capture Philadelphia. The colonial army attempted to stop them with a full frontal attack. Washington, however, noticed a flanking movement by the British and dispatched a small company to deflect it. Lafayette joined this company and, after doing so, rushed to the head of the troops, urging them to charge. In the middle of the action, Lafayette was hit in the lower calf by a bullet. The wound was not so severe to endanger Lafayette's life or even his limb, but it was enough to make a hero of the bold (some say foolhardy) Frenchman who, under fire, had shed blood for the American cause.

Lafayette was now perfectly poised to do what he did best — to serve as the essential Franco-American go-between and he was most effective in this role. Throughout the remainder of the revolutionary war, Lafayette time and again badgered France into providing supplies, money, and troops to the revolutionary army.

His valor also won him the respect of American generals who gave him increasing responsibility and eventually allowed him to formally lead

(continued on page 3)

Planning Developments (cont.)

totaling 25,000 square feet along Mt. Diablo Blvd., a 10,000 square foot office building near the creek, and 20 houses. Recognizing the downtown location, each house would be designed as a live/work space, with room for a professional office on the bottom floor. The project's design details are under scrutiny. The Design Review Commission is concerned about the desirability of the stand-alone houses in the retail area, and whether there is adequate parking for the project. More design details were requested, especially for the interior portions of the development. Residents are encouraged to attend the June 6 meeting.

Council Denies Appeal, Health Club Approved

On May 6, the Lafayette City Council signaled their approval for a new 67,000 square foot health club to be built between Mt. Diablo Blvd. and the freeway near Orchard Nursery. Pending resolution of a few minor issues, the developers could begin construction this year and open for business in fall, 1997.

Several Lafayette residents had appealed the Planning Commission's earlier decision to approve the club, citing building size and traffic concerns. After listening to more than 100 speakers during two public hearings and examining several hundred pages of evidence, the Council voted 3-1 (with one abstention) to uphold the Planning Commission's decision.

Private Bentley School Plans to Open in Lafayette

Bentley, the second oldest private school in the East Bay, has purchased the Vallecito School site in Lafayette located on El Nido Ranch Road near Upper Happy Valley Road. The Bentley School plans to convert the site to a private high school campus for grades 9-12 to open in the fall of 1997. Established in 1920, the Bentley School's primary campus in Oakland instructs children in K-8. The private school has not formally presented the City of Lafayette with an application, but has worked in several study sessions with the Planning and Engineering staff to determine the best way to proceed with its plan. For more information on the new school, call Bentley at 843-2512.

City Office Task Force Formed

In February, the Lafayette City Council approved the formation of a citizens task force to research the feasibility of constructing or purchasing a city-owned building to house Lafayette's city offices. The task force, which is comprised of 13 volunteers who either live or work in Lafayette, will study the topic over a three-month period and deliver its findings to the Council at a meeting scheduled on or about June 30.

Lafayette was incorporated in 1968 and has always housed its staff in rented offices. There is no "City Hall." The task force is charged with evaluating the financial aspects of city-owned offices, and will present a benefit-cost analysis and a "buy versus build versus lease" cost comparison to the Council. In addition to addressing the finances, the committee will make recommendations on potential sites and design. As part of its research, the task force will visit several other city halls in surrounding communities, with a critical eye to location, size and space allocations. A work plan for proceeding further, which will include a timeline and a process for selecting a site, an architect, etc., will also be presented to the Council at the June meeting. Residents are encouraged to attend. For more information on the work of the task force, please call Assistant City Manager Steven Falk.

Celebrate Independence at New Community Park

Lafayette's first "Independence Day at the Park" celebration is slated for — you guessed it — July 4th. And the whole city is invited!

The event will take on the flavor of small-town America with everything from a pie-eating contest to filling and placing a time capsule. Other activities will include a folksy three-ring circus, early morning park tours, food, music, sports competitions for the entire family and other entertainment yet to be unveiled. Organizers even promise "open displays of patriotism."

The Lafayette Community Parklands Foundation is organizing the celebration, tentatively scheduled from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Events proceeds will help fund Phase 1A of the new Lafayette Community Park, which will include the construction of public restrooms, maintenance storage facilities, picnic spots and grassy play areas. Future park facilities will offer the community more recreational variety and compliment the new playing fields. The estimated cost of the next construction phase is approximately $550,000.

The new Community Park is located on St Mary's Road, just past the Lafayette Community Center, between Lucille Lane and Rohrer Drive. There is a parking lot at the park and if necessary, additional parking is available at the Community Center.

For more information on the new community park and the upcoming celebration, please call Parkland Foundation President Mike Collier at 283-9073.

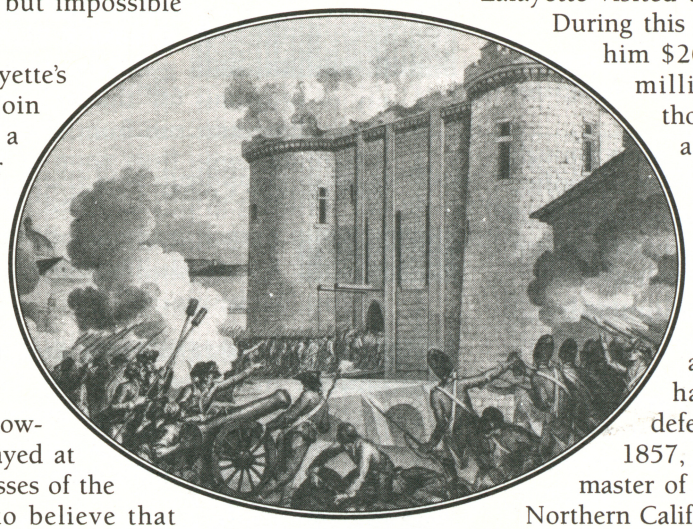
Who Was Lafayette? (Continued from front page)

American troops. One evening in May, 1778, Lafayette's company was surprised by the British shortly after nightfall. Trapped, Lafayette coolly dispatched decoys to fool the English troops while evacuating the bulk of his men to safety. This cunning move further burnished Lafayette's reputation both stateside and in France.

As his reputation grew, so did his relationship with George Washington. In fact, Washington became the spiritual father that Lafayette never had, and Lafayette became the son that the impotent Washington never sired.

As a commander, Lafayette came to realize how poorly supplied the American troops were, and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars of his own fortune to fortify the colonials. His military success and generosity put Lafayette in a unique position to appeal to recalcitrant state governments. The states had varying levels of enthusiasm for the revolutionary war, and there was little central coordination. As a "disinterested observer" without a native state or regional affinity, Lafayette could cajole the states in a way that no one else could. If Lafayette hadn't served this "middleman" role, there is little doubt that the colonies would have failed in the revolutionary effort.

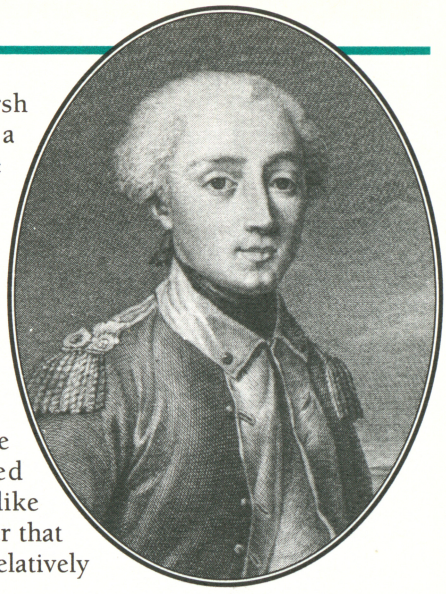
By 1780, the Major General Lafayette was commanding nearly 2,200 American troops and was viewed as the official representative of France to the U.S. He eventually negotiated for France to deliver substantial numbers of troops, and in 1782 eighteen hundred French sailors arrived. Lafayette marched his troops to Yorktown, where the British had decamped a large portion of its army. On October 6, the allies attacked and by noon on October 19th, the British surrendered in what was to be their largest defeat. It was a resounding victory, led by Washington, but impossible without Lafayette.



Returning to France, Lafayette's love for liberty led him to join the noblemen who favored a revolution of their own. After the revolutionaries stormed the Bastille in 1789, Lafayette was made commander in chief of the new national guard, organized to safeguard the Revolution's secure place in France.

In the following months, however, Lafayette became dismayed at the growing and violent excesses of the revolutionaries and came to believe that France was not ready for a pure democratic revolution. He thus championed a limited monarchy with a democratically elected senate. Such a monarchy, however, was overthrown in 1792 and Lafayette's now-compromised position left him branded as a traitor. To escape arrest and Robespierre's guillotine, Lafayette fled to Belgium where he was imprisoned by the Austrians.

For five years, from 1792 to 1797, Lafayette remained captive in a damp, moldy Prussian prison cell without heat, light, or decent food. The harsh treatment scandalized a substantial portion of the civilized world, including his wife Adrienne. So troubled was she that Adrienne successfully pleaded with the King of Prussia to allow her — and the two Lafayette daughters — to be jailed alongside the Marquis. The reunited Lafayettes were treated like animals and it is a wonder that the two girls remained relatively healthy.



Finally, in 1797, after a letter writing campaign that included contributions from James Monroe and now-President George Washington, Napoleon released Lafayette. Despite the favor of clemency, Lafayette disapproved of Napoleon's rule and therefore assumed a low political profile. After Napoleon was overthrown and the monarchy restored, Lafayette remained generally inactive until the people were again seriously oppressed. He then rose to lead the opposition and, in 1830, he took part in his third national revolution. Now seventy-three years of age, Lafayette commanded the Army of the National Guard that drove Charles X from France and placed on the throne Louis Philippe, the so-called "citizen king."

In 1824 — nearly 50 years after his first victory in America, Lafayette visited the United States on a farewell tour. During this visit, the U.S. Congress voted to give him $200,000 (worth the equivalent of $3 million 1983 dollars) and twenty-five thousand acres of Federal lands. This was a welcome gift, for his own property had been taken during the French Revolution. During his tour, Lafayette visited Fayetteville, North Carolina and noted that many other towns and cities in the fast-growing United States had chosen to name themselves after the famous French hero who had played such an essential role in defeating the British (Note: it wasn't until 1857, however, that Benjamin Shreve, postmaster of a small, oak-studded farming town in Northern California learned that his first choice for a town name, Centerville, was already taken and settled on Lafayette, instead).

Finally, on May 20, 1834, at the age of seventy-six, Lafayette pressed a medallion bearing a portrait of his beloved Adrienne to his lips and succumbed to a months-long bout with pneumonia.

Photos printed courtesy of the New York Public Library

New Recycling Opportunities

In March, 1996, the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority instituted a new curb-side recycling program that enables residents to recycle a much wider variety of paper goods, plastics, glass and metal. Residents were provided with a two-sided burgundy cart to make recycling easier. Both sides of the cart are clearly marked: one side for paper products, the other for plastics, glass and metal containers. The cart's contents are picked up by Valley Waste Management the same day as regular garbage.

Residents can now deposit all of the following paper products in the paper side of the burgundy cart: newspapers, magazines, junk mail, mail order catalogs, telephone books and collapsed cardboard. White, colored and printed paper are also recyclable. In addition, residents can recycle paper cereal boxes (remove liners), paper egg cartons, flattened shoe and gift boxes, paper grocery bags, paper milk and juice cartons (rinsed, dried and flattened), and plastic-coated paper juice cartons (remove the straws).

The following plastics should be placed in the other side of the recycling cart: plastic containers displaying the recyclable symbol. This includes narrow-necked containers marked 1 or 2, such as soda and water bottles, milk jugs, detergent, shampoo, ketchup and mustard, as well as wide-mouthed containers marked 3 through 7 such as margarine or yogurt tubs. Please remove all lids, but don't worry about soaking off paper labels. Residents can also recycle all aluminum and tin cans, bi-metal and steel cans in this section of the cart.

Plastic bags of any description, styrofoam cups or trays, tissues, paper towels, and aluminum foil should not be placed in the recycling cart.

To learn more about recycling, call the Solid Waste Authority at 906-1801 and request a free copy of the 1995/96 Recycling and Waste Reduction Guide. The guide provides tips on everything from curb-side recycling to where to get rid of appliances, used motor oil, anti-freeze, lumber, etc. The guide also includes a list of drop-off and buy-back recycling centers in the area.

Vistas Wins Statewide Award

The ***Lafayette Vistas*** newsletter has been selected by the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) as one of the finest municipal newsletters in the State. Each year, CAPIO evaluates newsletters, magazines, and other media produced by California's many public agencies, including cities, counties, and special districts.

The ***Vistas*** won top honors for the "newsletters with target audience under 75,000" category, and was specially recognized for its detailed reporting of city issues. The award application noted that "the (Lafayette) population requires a newsletter that treats issues in-depth and the ***Vistas*** has . . . been designed to do so. ***Vistas*** articles are longer and more detailed than those of typical city newsletters."

The CAPIO award is the highest award given to municipal newsletters in California, and the judges noted that the City of Lafayette is now ". . . part of a very select group . . . who will receive these honors, and your efforts are to be applauded." The award was presented to Lafayette on May 2 as part of the 1996 CAPIO conference in San Diego.

FIX-IT TICKET

Here's your opportunity to issue a **Fix-It Ticket** to the City of Lafayette. Just fill out the following check list and mail, fax or deliver it to: **City of Lafayette**

FAX: 510-284-3169

Physical Address:
Desco Plaza #210
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

On-line Address:
Lafay1968@AOL.com

Mailing Address:
City of Lafayette
P.O. Box 1968
Lafayette, CA 94549

Problem Location(s):

_____

_____

Please fix the following:
(check the appropriate boxes)

Streets or Roads
- ☐ Hole ☐ Loose gravel
- ☐ Bump ☐ Poor drainage

Landscaping
- ☐ Overgrown
- ☐ Blocks traffic signs
- ☐ Obstructs sidewalk
- ☐ Blocks intersection

Sidewalks
- ☐ Hole ☐ Crack
- ☐ Bump ☐ Tree roots

Street Lights
- ☐ Lamp out ☐ Reflector damaged
- ☐ Pole damaged ☐ Globe damaged

Traffic Signals or Signs
- ☐ Bent ☐ Missing ☐ Needed

Street Signs
- ☐ Bent ☐ Missing ☐ Needed

Playgrounds
- ☐ Equipment broken or vandalized
- ☐ Hazardous conditions

Misc: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Your Name: _____

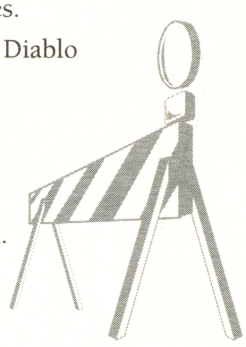
Address: _____

_____

Phone #: _____

Construction Alert!

The following major road projects will commence this summer in Lafayette, causing temporary detours and minor delays. The long term improvements will greatly outweigh any short term inconveniences.



Location: Pleasant Hill Rd. from Mt. Diablo Blvd. to Reliez Valley Rd.
Project: Total road reconstruction
Timing: July - December

Location: All of Upper Happy Valley Rd. and El Nido Ranch Rd.
Project: Road and drainage
Timing: July - November

Location: Hidden Valley Rd., Diablo Circle, Middle Rd., and Crest Rd.
Project: Road and drainage
Timing: July - October

Location: Dewing Ave. and Boyer Circle
Project: Road and drainage
Timing: July - October

Location: Dolores Dr. near Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Project: Road and drainage
Timing: July - October

For more information about these projects, call City Engineer Mark Lander.

Lafayette Goes On Line

Residents can now learn about and communicate directly with the City of Lafayette via a computer modem and the Internet.

For the uninitiated, the idea of communicating through a computer may seem intimidating. But for computer users, the Internet is fast becoming the way to communicate, read the morning news, even shop. Most cities, including Orinda and Walnut Creek, are "on the Net."

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) hosts Lafayette's "home page" where people can find out all sorts of pertinent community information. There's no charge for dialing in, just the cost of the telephone call if you're outside the local calling area. Lafayette's home page includes the city directory, a schedule of upcoming community meetings and events, Lafayette's demographics and history, and minutes from recent public meetings. Lafayette's home page is located at HTTP://WWW.AGAG.CA.GOV. There's also an E-mail option, so you can send messages electronically to any member of the City staff. The City's E-mail address is Lafay1968@aol.com.

According to Assistant City Manager Steven Falk, who oversees Lafayette's spot on the Internet, the City's home page is under construction and will be expanded over the next few months. The information will also be updated on a regular basis to provide residents with the latest in local news.

Around Town

May 16 **BIKE TO WORK/SCHOOL DAY** – Ride your bike to work or school on Thursday, May 16, and you will be eligible to win one of many great prizes, including airline tickets, gift certificates, bicycle gear and t-shirts. For more information or a registration form, call Juliet Shanks, Rideshare Coordinator, at 284-1968.

May 22 **SCHOOL BUS PRE-ENROLLMENT DEADLINE** – Kids who want to ride the bus next year should return applications to the City by May 22. Cost for a full-year, round trip fare is $260. Enrollment forms are available at the City offices, 284-1968.

May 25 **FREE HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP** – Learn how to recycle yard waste by attending a free workshop. The program will be held at Simon Home Center in Walnut Creek, beginning at 9:00am. Reservations: 229-4240.

May 28 **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET** – Here's your chance to tell the City Council how to spend the City's precious resources during the next fiscal year. 7:30pm, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.

June 6 **TOWN CENTER REVIEW** – The Planning Commission will review the latest developers proposal for the BART block property. 7:30pm, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.

June 21 **FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION** – The Northern California Family Center is looking for people with a little extra space in their homes and hearts to serve as foster parents for runaway and homeless youth. 7:00pm at 307 Lennon Lane in Walnut Creek. For information, call 370-1990.

Jun 24 – Aug 2 **SUMMER FUN 1996** – Lafayette's Parks and Recreation Dept. presents a wide variety of programs for children entering Kindergarten – 8th grade. Programs run from 9:00am to noon, with afternoon Adventure Camp from noon to 5:00pm. To register, contact the Lafayette Comm. Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, 284-2232.

June 27 **THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN** – He'll create human-sized bubbles! Lafayette School Auditorium, 1:00pm, $2 per person.

July 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE PARK** – Lafayette's first party for every Lafayette resident! (See the accompanying article for more information). 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Lafayette Community Park. Call Mike Collier at 283-9073 for more information.

July 13 **CARS & STARS PREVIEW PARTY AT BEHRING MUSEUM** – Mingle with Lafayette's most at this elegant kick-off to the Concours D'Elegance. It's the place to see and be seen this summer. Call the Chamber of Commerce for information, 284-7404.

July 14 **CONCOURS D' ELEGANCE** – Lafayette's biggest annual affair and fundraiser for local charities and the Chamber of Commerce. Inspect beautiful vintage autos and bump into old neighbors and friends. For information call the Chamber of Commerce at 284-7404.

Contact Care Offers Confidential Helpline

For nearly 25 years, a nonprofit organization called **Contact Care** has quietly and confidentially helped residents in Lafayette and surrounding communities solve a myriad of problems. Tackling everything from frightened children to isolated senior citizens, Contact Care is a 24-hour-a-day helpline located in Lafayette that provides callers with a safe, non-judgmental place to express their fears and concerns.

Contact Care volunteers are professionally trained to handle a wide variety of situations over the telephone, from major problems to small concerns, including:

- Frightened Children
- Misunderstood Teens/Teen Stress
- Misunderstood Parents/Parental Stress
- Isolated Senior Citizens
- Domestic Abuse
- Suicide
- Hunger
- Grief Counseling

Contact Care also takes calls on behalf of the following organizations, who do not have a round-the-clock telephone service: Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Compassionate Friends, and Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction.

For assistance, please call Contact Care at the appropriate number listed below:

- 24-Hour Helpline: 284-CARE (2273).
- Teen-to-Teen Hotline: 945-TEEN (8336)
  (24 hour line, staffed by professionally trained teens, 4-10 p.m. Sunday - Friday)
- Kid Phone Warmline: 284-2274 (not a substitute for 911)
- Internet: http://www.meer.net/users/taylor/contacca.htm

Prior to taking calls, Contact Care volunteers must graduate from a 10-week, 50-hour communication skills training course. Each year, around 50 adults and 50 teens train along side one another throughout the course, which encompasses current social issues such as domestic abuse, sexual identity, and substance abuse. Parents and teens are encouraged to attend together. Other classes, designed for junior and senior high school students, focus on self-awareness and self esteem, conflict management, and conflict resolution. The course fee is $50.

"The training course is extremely beneficial to teens and adults who are considering going into the helping fields," says JoAnn Emerzian, executive director of Contact Care. "The course also improves interpersonal relationships at home, at work and on campus."

Contact Care is fully accredited by Contact USA, a national network of 64 helplines. Contact Care relies exclusively on private and business contributions. If you would like to support Contact Care, you can:

- Sign up for the communication skills training course which begins each January and September. Call 284-2207 for more information.
- Give a tax-deductible donation directly to Contact Care.
- Designate all or part of your United Way contribution to Contact Care.
- Give a gift of stocks through Prudential Securities. Call 746-7257 or Dean Witter at 746-2901.
- Give a memorial or tribute gift to Contact Care.

City Directory

NEW

Leave your Council Members a message on the City's new voice mail system! Call 299-3232

Officers

		EXT.
Judy Garvens	**Mayor**	**272**
Donald L. Tatzin	**Vice Mayor**	**274**
Anne Grodin	**Council Member**	**273**
Gayle B. Uilkema	**Council Member**	**270**
Erling Horn	**Council Member**	**271**

For messages to **all** Council Members: **907**

The City Council meets at 7:00 pm on the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.

Staff

Robert F.D. Adams	**City Manager**
Steven B. Falk	**Assist. City Manager**
Niroop K. Srivatsa	**Comm. Dev. Director**
Mark Lander	**City Engineer**
Mike Henn	**Planning Serv. Mgr.**
Jennifer Russell	**Parks and Recreation Director**
Tony Coe	**Public Works Serv. Mgr.**
Sue Jusaitis	**City Clerk**
Gregg Moore	**Police Services Mgr.**

City Offices and Police

Street Address:	**3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 210**
Mailing Address:	**P.O. Box 1968 Lafayette, CA 94549-1968**

City Telephone Numbers

Administration:	**284-1968**
Engineering:	**284-1951**
Planning:	**284-1976**
Parks and Rec:	**284-2232**
Public Works:	**284-1968**
Senior Services:	**284-5050**
Police Business:	**284-5010**
Police Emergency:	**911**
Voice Mail System:	**299-3232**

LAFAYETTE VISTAS

is published for the residents of Lafayette and reports on issues, people and events that affect our city. As a member of this community, you are encouraged to contact us with your questions and comments. We request all correspondence be sent to:

Steven Falk, Editor, Lafayette Vistas
City of Lafayette
P.O. Box 1968, Lafayette, CA 94549-1968
510-284-1968 • FAX: 510-284-3169
On-Line: Lafay1968@aol.com

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